

TELEPHONE COMPANY IS ANNOYED AT LONG DELAY

By BILL PRICE.

Congressman Ben Johnson of Kentucky, chairman of the House Committee on the District of Columbia, has added the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company to the list of those who do not love him. There are others in Congress who are not highly regarded by this company.

Mr. Johnson's great patience in holding off a vote by the House on his bill for taking the business in the District out of the hands of the company and placing it in the hands of Postmaster General Buison is the present source of the irritation against him. The highly paid lawyers and officials of the company want the question of ownership pressed to a vote in Congress, believing that the Government ownership advocates will not be able to marshal a majority of that body.

Want Quick Relief.

They are placed in a position that annoys them every minute. The Utilities Commission, which heard their appeal for rearranging telephone charges in this city so that the company will not only be relieved of considerable pressure on their lines but permitted to obtain additional receipts, expressed the opinion, in its decision, that the company was entitled to relief, but that the commission was not prepared to give relief while Congress was dallying with the question of ownership.

But for Postmaster General Buison's interference at the last minute, the telephone company would today be curtailing its service and collecting more money for the diminished service than before. Then Mr. Johnson took up the cudgels, had two warm parliamentary fights in the House over his telephone bill, and finally had it referred to his own committee, which has reported favorably upon it.

There is, therefore, hanging over the heads of the company's officials the constant threat of Government operation or ownership by Congress, while their hands are temporarily tied against collecting more money for service than before. It is a situation, with nobody in the way, that keeps awake nights worrying about it.

Ask Commission's Aid.

Officials of the company have laid before the Utilities Commission their view that they ought to be granted the relief sought without waiting for possibly long delayed action in Congress. They have been told that Mr. Johnson, although a Kentuckian, is remarkably placid at times, and that he never pushes one of his measures in the House until he has carefully studied the strategy of the opposing forces and has his reserves all lined up for battle. In this telephone fight he may not open his batteries for some time. In fact the fight may not be opened for some weeks, and there may be no final decision for months.

Should the commission go ahead and grant relief to the company, Congress might be offended and Government ownership might be given an impetus that would push it across the congressional line. If the Utilities Commission goes forward and gives the relief it says is deserved, without regard to the legislative situation, what is likely to happen? If the commission holds off granting the relief while Congress does nothing where does the company get off? It's some predicament. The users of telephone and telegraph will be the only ones who are soothed.

Will Put in Automatic System.

The telephone company has announced that it intends to establish an automatic service in Washington that will cost \$2,000,000, and possibly more. That service cannot be ready, though, inside of a year. New buildings will have to be constructed to house the automatic equipment and many experienced workmen will be required to put it in.

This is the system that the Postmaster General promises to install if given charge of the company. Postmaster Chance claims that the department could install this complete system in four months at a cost of something like \$2,000,000.

The telephone company, it was said today, will go forward with its automatic plan, despite the aggravating situation in which it is placed. The system, whenever it is ready, will do away with girl operators altogether. The automatic exchange will be located after by a few electrical and mechanical experts.

It will be useless to try to say sweet things to the automation. They will not hear you. Neither will your conversation stick in listening ears. You simply switch a few numbers around on the dial attached to your machine and get your number. If the number is busy there will be a slight buzzing sound and you can call later.

OLD MAN TRAITOR, WIFE SAYS.

SMITH CENTER, Kan., March 30.—Charging that he is "pro-German, a traitor to his country and so mean and stingy that he will not allow her to have any fire in the house during the coldest weather except in the kitchen," Mrs. Henrietta Fletcher, of this city, is suing her husband, John Fletcher, for a division of their property.

Fletcher is seventy-five years old, a civil war veteran and has lived here forty-five years.

DIAMONDS
PLATINUM AND GOLD
PURCHASED
PRECIOUS
ON SALE
BURNSTINE'S
301 PENN. AVE. N.W.

WALL ST. MARKET

PRICES FIRM FOLLOWING NARROW TRADING.

Majority of Issues Show Slight Reactions, Steel Common Breaking % on Sales of Less Than 1,000 Shares—Inspiration Gains Slightly and Ralls Hold Their Own.

NEW YORK, March 30.—Business was extremely quiet and price movements narrow at the opening of the stock market today, with the majority of the issues showing slight reactions. Less than 1,000 shares of Steel common was traded in during the first fifteen minutes, that stock yielding 1/4 to 3/8, while the other steel industrials also showed trifling losses.

Inspiration moved up 1/4 to 45 1/2. The further deferring of the St. Paul dividend was without influence, the common yielding 1/4 to 3/8. Reading held around 80, and most of the other prominent issues were unchanged from Thursday's final prices. Crucible was 1/4 lower at 62 1/2, and United Cigar Stores showed a gain of over one point to 85 1/2.

Thursday Close.

1% Alaska G.M.	High	Low	Close
1% Alaska G.M.	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/2
1% Alaska-Juneau	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/2
1% Am Can.	40 1/2	40 1/4	40 1/2
78 1/4 A C & Fdy.	79	77 3/4	79
30 1/4 Am Cot Oil.	31	30 1/4	31
Am Linsced.	20 1/2	20 1/4	20 1/2
76 1/4 Am Smelting	77 1/2	77	77 1/2
89 1/4 Am San Tob	89	89	89 1/4
62 1/2 A Steel Fdy.	63	63	63
99 1/4 Am Tel. T	100	100	100 1/4
151 Am To. acco.	152 1/2	151	152 1/2
62 1/4 Anaconda	63	62 1/2	63
83 1/4 Atchafson	83 1/2	83 1/4	83 1/2
52 Balt. & Ohio	52	51 3/4	52
74 1/4 Bald Loco.	74 1/2	74 1/4	74 1/2
1 1/4 Batoplas Ma	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4
77 1/4 Beth St. B.	77 1/2	77 1/4	77 1/2
15 1/4 Butte & Sup.	15 1/2	15 1/4	15 1/2
15 1/4 Cal Petrol.	15 1/2	15 1/4	15 1/2
138 1/4 Can Pacific	137 3/4	137 1/4	137 3/4
64 Cent Leather	64 1/2	64 1/4	64 1/2
38 1/4 Cent Found.	38	38	38
56 1/4 Ches. & Ohio	56 1/2	56 1/4	56 1/2
39 1/4 C M & S P.	41	39 1/4	41
71 C M & S P.	70 1/2	70 1/4	70 1/2
55 1/4 CR & P w. l.	55 1/2	55 1/4	55 1/2
15 1/4 Chile Copper	15 1/2	15 1/4	15 1/2
40 1/4 Chin C. Cop.	40 1/2	40 1/4	40 1/2
55 1/4 Corn Prod.	55 1/2	55 1/4	55 1/2
63 Crucible Stl.	63	62 1/2	63
29 Cuba C. Sug.	29 1/2	29 1/4	29 1/2
40 1/4 Dist Secur.	41 1/4	40 1/4	41 1/4
14 1/4 Erie	14 1/2	14 1/4	14 1/2
Flaherty Body	35	35	35
Gen Elec.	137	137	137
Gen Motors	118	118	118
G North pf.	90	90	90
Gt Nor Ore	27 1/2	27	27 1/2
43 1/4 G. J. & B.	44 1/4	44 1/4	44 1/4
43 1/4 Hask & Bar.	39 1/2	39 1/4	39 1/2
Hart's Corp.	37	37	37
45 Iny Copper	46 1/2	45 1/4	46 1/2
Ill Central	66 1/2	66 1/4	66 1/2
96 Int Nickel	28 1/2	28	28 1/2
7 Inter Com.	7	7	7
Jewel Tea	35	35	35
Kanecoat	30 1/2	30 1/4	30 1/2
76 Lack Steel	76	76	76
23 1/4 Laclede com.	24 1/2	23 1/4	24 1/2
89 1/4 Marine pfd.	89 1/2	89 1/4	89 1/2
Max. Int. pfd.	54	53 1/2	54
92 Mexican Pet.	92 1/2	91 1/2	92 1/2
Miami Cop.	31	31	31
44 1/4 Midvale Stl.	44 1/2	44 1/4	44 1/2
4 1/4 Mo K & T.	4 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/2
54 1/4 Nat Lead	54 1/2	54	54 1/2
19 Nev C. Cop.	18 1/2	18 1/4	18 1/2
69 1/4 N Y Central	69 1/2	69 1/4	69 1/2
29 1/4 N Y N H & H.	29 1/2	29	29 1/2
104 1/4 Nor & West.	104 1/2	104 1/4	104 1/2
37 1/4 Ohio Gas	38	38	38
7 1/4 Ontario Silvr	7 1/2	7 1/4	7 1/2
90 1/4 P. Am. Pet. pfd.	89 1/2	89	89 1/2
44 1/4 Penn R.R.	44 1/2	44 1/4	44 1/2
112 1/4 Pull Pal Car.	113 1/2	113 1/4	113 1/2
51 1/4 Ry St. Svs.	51 1/2	51 1/4	51 1/2
22 1/4 Ray C. Cop.	23 1/2	23	23 1/2
78 1/4 Rep I & Stl.	78 1/2	78 1/4	78 1/2
80 1/4 Reading	81 1/2	80 1/4	81 1/2
Reading 2 pf.	35	35	35
Royal Dutch	75 1/2	75 1/4	75 1/2
29 Sinclair Oil	28 1/2	27 1/2	28 1/2
22 1/4 Southern Ry.	22 1/2	22 1/4	22 1/2
60 1/4 So Ry pf.	60 1/2	60 1/4	60 1/2
83 South Pacific	83 1/2	83 1/4	83 1/2
40 1/4 Studebaker	41 1/2	40 1/4	41 1/2
17 Tenn C & C.	17 1/2	17 1/4	17 1/2
49 1/4 Tobac Prod.	50 1/2	50	50 1/2
118 1/4 Union Pacific	120	119	120
84 1/4 U. C. & F. pfd.	85 1/2	85 1/4	85 1/2
42 U. C. I. & F. pfd.	42	42	42
5 1/4 Un Ry Inv.	5 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/2
122 U. S. Ind. Al.	122 1/2	122 1/4	122 1/2
123 United Fruit	123 1/2	123	123 1/2
109 1/4 U. S. Rub 1 pf.	109 1/2	109 1/4	109 1/2
45 1/4 U. S. R. pfd.	45 1/2	45 1/4	45 1/2
109 1/4 U. S. Steel pf.	109 1/2	109 1/4	109 1/2
78 Utah Copper	78 1/2	77 1/4	78 1/2
41 1/4 Va Car. Cm.	41 1/2	41 1/4	41 1/2
40 1/4 Washash pf. A.	40 1/2	40 1/4	40 1/2
40 1/4 West. pfd.	40 1/2	40 1/4	40 1/2
White M.	42 1/2	42 1/4	42 1/2
52 1/4 Wilson Inc.	53	53	53
94 Wilson pf.	94	94	94
17 1/4 Wills Over	17 1/2	17 1/4	17 1/2

Baltimore Grain Market.

BALTIMORE, March 30.—Wheat—firm, unchanged. No. 2 soft red, 32 1/2; No. 2 red winter, 32 1/2. Receipts, 16,340 bushels; shipments, 22,775 bushels.

Corn—New, as to grade and color, \$1.70 to \$1.85. Receipts, 59,208 bushels; shipments, 16,992 bushels.

Oats—Firm. No. 3 white, \$1.02 @ \$1.02 1/2. Receipts, 7,235 bushels; shipments, 12,705 bushels.

Rye—Firm. No. 2 Western export, \$2.05 bbl. Receipts, 17,615 bushels; shipments, 80,444 bushels.

Hay—Quiet, steady.

Flour—Firm; good demand.

RED CROSS PLANNING FOR BIG NEW DRIVE

The 1918 campaign of the American Red Cross to raise \$100,000,000 is beginning to gain headway. A meeting to discuss plans for the drive to be made May 29 to May 31 was held at the New Willard last night by the local finance committee. England, Belgium, Canada, and the American Red Cross were represented.

H. B. Macfarland, of the executive committee, acting chairman, asked for the co-operation of all in Washington in raising the half-million dollars allotted here. John W. Davis, counselor of the American Red Cross, and Texas rancher, told the Senate Agriculture Committee today.

Laister assailed Food Administration Representative Joseph B. Cotton for "intentional disregard" of the producers. Laister was formerly associated with Hoover.

LOANS HORNING

KELLEY, VA.

See Automobile from 313 and D Sts. N. W.

Ladies' Night

Let the Wedding Bells Ring Out.

Registered U. S. Patent Office.



THE CURB MARKET.

Closing prices furnished by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of New York Stock Exchange.

Acetylene Explosives	70 1/2	70 1/2
Air Reduction	70 1/2	70 1/2
Am. Wire Paper com.	1 1/4	1 1/4
Atlantic Petroleum	2 1/2	2 1/2
Barnett Oil	1 1/4	1 1/4
Big Ledge	1 1/4	1 1/4
Bingham Mining	9 1/2	9 1/2
Boston & Montana	52 1/2	52 1/2
Boston & Wyoming	20 1/2	20 1/2
Butterworth Judson	35 1/2	35 1/2
Caledonia Mining	40 1/2	40 1/2
Calumet & Jerome	1 1/4	1 1/4
Canada Copper	2 1/2	2 1/2
Carbon Steel	37 1/2	37 1/2
Car Light and Power	2 1/2	2 1/2
Charcoal Iron	8 1/4	8 1/4
Chevrolet	117 1/2	120
Cities Service	201 1/2	201 1/2
Cities Service pfd.	7 1/2	7 1/2
Consolidated Arizona	1 1/4	1 1/4
Consolidated Cop.	5 1/4	5 1/4
Cosden Co.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Cosden pfd.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Crampe	52 1/2	52 1/2
Crescent Gold	4 1/4	4 1/4
Crystal Copper	4 1/4	4 1/4
Curtis Air	28 1/2	28 1/2
Davis Daily	2 1/4	2 1/4
Denbigh Silver	2 1/4	2 1/4
Elk Basin	6 1/2	6 1/2
Emerson Phone	3 1/4	3 1/4
Emma Copper	2 1/4	2 1/4
Federal Oil	1 1/4	1 1/4
Federal National Copper	2 1/4	2 1/4
Glen Rock	3 1/4	3 1/4
Goldfield Cons.	1 1/4	1 1/4
Green Monster	4 1/4	4 1/4
Guantanamo Sugar	56 1/2	56 1/2
Holly Sugar	40 1/2	40 1/2
Holly Sugar pfd.	27 1/2	27 1/2
Houston Oil	42 1/2	42 1/2
Howe Sound	4 1/4	4 1/4
Hull Copper	35 1/2	35 1/2
Independence	14 1/4	14 1/4
International Petrol.	14 1/4	14 1/4
Jerome Verde	62 1/2	62 1/2
Jim Butler	11 1/2	11 1/2
Junco Extension	11 1/2	11 1/2
Lake Torpedo	1 1/4	1 1/4
Lake Torpedo pfd.	1 1/4	1 1/4
Magma Copper	35 1/2	35 1/2
Marlin	77 1/2	77 1/2
Mason Valley	4 1/4	4 1/4
Merritt Oil	18 1/2	18 1/2
Metro. Petroleum	96 1/2	96 1/2
Midwest Oil com.	102 1/2	102 1/2
Midwest Oil pfd.	102 1/2	102 1/2
Midwestern Oil	66 1/2	66 1/2
Mitchell Motors	15 1/2	15 1/2
Nipissing Mines Co.	8 1/4	8 1/4
Northern Oil	2 1/2	2 1/2
Oklahoma Oil Co.	4 1/4	4 1/4
Ola. Prod. & Ref. Co.	33 1/2	33 1/2
Pacific Gas	15 1/2	15 1/2
Peerless Motors	16 1/2	16 1/2
Ray Hercules	4 1/4	4 1/4
Red Warrior	15 1/2	15 1/2
St. Joseph Lead	50 1/2	50 1/2
S. S. Kresge Com.	100 1/2	100 1/2
S. S. Kresge Pfd.	8 1/4	8 1/4
Seaboard Oil	325,000,000	480,000,000
Seaboard Oil pfd.	325,000,000	480,000,000
Sinclair Gulf	16 1/2	16 1/2
Standard Motors	12 1/2	12 1/2
Submarine Corp.	12 1/2	12 1/2
Success Mining	1 1/4	1 1/4
Tonopah Extension	1 1/4	1 1/4
Tri Bullion	1 1/4	1 1/4
U. S. Light & pfd.	1 1/4	1 1/4
U. S. L. & H. pfd.	20 1/2	20 1/2
United Motors	5 1/2	5 1/2
United Profit Shar.	5 1/2	5 1/2
United Verde	36 1/2	36 1/2
United West. Oil	5 1/4	5 1/4
United Zinc	5 1/4	5 1/4
Utah Petrol.	5 1/4	5 1/4
Wayland Oil	4 1/4	4 1/4
Wright-Martin Aero.	7 1/4	7 1/4

Pretty Movie Star In Thrilling Photo

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